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Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 DHA-02 CU-02 /060 W
----------200501Z 016403 /23
R 192358Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1648

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, CASC
SUBJECT: EXCELSIOR STORY - COMMENTS ON WHITE HOUSE INFORMATION REGARDING HUMAN RIGHTS

1. EXCELSIOR APRIL 19 CARRIES LONG ARTICLE BY FAUSTO FERNANDEZ PONTE CITING WHITE HOUSE AS STATING THAT WORLD-WIDE PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT CARTER'S CAMPAIGN IN FAVOR OF HUMAN RIGHTS HAS BEEN "OVERWHELMING AND IMPRESSIVE". ACCORDING TO STORY, WHITE HOUSE HAS RECEIVED EXPRESSIONS OF SUPPORT (HALF MILLION LETTERS, 400 THOUSAND TELEGRAMS AND 25,000 TELEPHONE CALLS) FROM 80 COUNTRIES, INCLUDING MEXICO.

2. ARTICLE STATES THAT AT LEAST 14 THOUSAND MESSAGES APPLAUDING CARTER'S CAMPAIGN AND CITING CONCRETE VIOLA-TIONS OF CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS HAVE BEEN SENT FROM MEXICO. IT CLAIMS THAT THE WHITE HOUSE SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED AS "ELOQUENT" A LETTER TO CARTER FROM BENJAMIN LAUREANO LUNA, PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL FRONT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. DATED APRIL 12, THE LETTER ALLEGEDLY REVIEWS THE STATUS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN DIFFERENT LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES, INCLUDING MEXICO. ACCORDING TO
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EXCELSIOR, LAUREANO LUNA'S LETTER SAYS WITH RESPECT TO MEXICO THAT "MORE THAN 5,000 DEATHS IN TLATELOLCO, 3,000 ASSASSINATIONS IN TLAXPANA, AND NEARLY 25,000 DISAPPEAR-ANCES IN THE STATE OF GUERRERO ARE A BRIEF BALANCE SHEET OF THE FRIGHTFUL PERIOD THROUGH WHICH THE COUNTRY HAS LIVED." ARTICLE CONCLUDES BY STATING THAT THIS LETTER CHARACTERIZES "REPRESSION AGAINST MEXICANS IN THE UNITED

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STATES AS BRUTAL AND FULL OF HATRED."

3. STORY QUOTES ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN AS INFORMING EXCELSIOR (PRESUMABLY FERNANDEZ PONTE) DURING LUNCHEON THAT DENUNCIATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS ARE TURNED OVER TO THE RESPECTIVE U.S. EMBASSIES WHICH IN TURN WILL VERIFY THE ACCURACY OF EACH CASE.
4. COMMENT: FERNANDEZ PONTE'S TENDENCY TO EXAGGERATE IS BY NOW LEGENDARY. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE ANY LIGHT DEPT CAN CAST ON EXCELSIOR'S VERSION OF TODMAN COMMENT AND STORY RE MEXICAN MESSAGES ON "HUMAN RIGHTS", ESPECIALLY ALLEGED WHITE HOUSE CHARACTERIZATION OF LAUREANO LUNA LETTER AS ELOQUENT. IF COPY OF HIS LETTER IS AVAILABLE, PLEASE FORWARD BY POUCH. SEE MEXICO CITY A-46 OF MARCH 8, 1977 FOR BACKGROUND ON PREVIOUS LAUREANO LUNA LETTERS TO PRESIDENTS LOPEZ PORTILLO AND CARTER AND TO FIDEL CASTRO. HAYNE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, HUMAN RIGHTS, POLICIES, JOURNALISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Format: TEL
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770443/aaaabkxe.tel
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Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Date: 29-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
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SAS ID: 2765099
Secure: OPEN
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